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# U.S. should limit Soviets to cut spying, Leahy says

By Bill Gertz  
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Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., yesterday renewed his call for limiting the number of Soviet and Eastern bloc personnel in the United States as a way to reduce espionage activities.

Sen. Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said there are more than 1,000 Soviet spies in the United States and not enough has been done to deal with the problem.

"We all say we gotta watch out for spies, but nobody really does take it seriously," Mr. Leahy said in an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

The senator noted that the administration is willing to spend \$1.5 billion on a Navy battleship but "won't spend a relatively paltry sum on rechecks of people with security clearances."

"That's how somebody like the Walkers get through," Mr. Leahy said in a reference to the recent arrests of John Walker, his son Michael, brother Arthur, and a friend, Jerry Whitworth, for allegedly selling U.S. naval secrets to the Soviet Union.

Each held at least a secret clearance while in the Navy, but only one of the four had ever been re-investigated to maintain his clearance — a process that is supposed to occur every five years.

Mr. Leahy predicted that Soviet espionage "will continue and expand."

An amendment to the present State Department authorization bill would limit Soviet personnel stationed in the United States to the number of U.S. government personnel posted in Moscow and Leningrad.

If passed by Congress, it would immediately cut back the number of Soviet personnel here, Mr. Leahy said. He added that the State Department had opposed the measure for unspecified reasons.

Earlier this month, President Reagan told his weekly radio audience that there are 2,500

Soviet personnel in the United States and that 30 percent to 40 percent were known or suspected intelligence officers. Besides Soviet personnel, there are an additional 1,000 to 1,500 Soviet bloc personnel with the same estimated percentage of spies.

The proposed law "doesn't mean you're going to stop spying in here ... but you can certainly cut down the numbers of those who have diplomatic immunity and give the FBI a fighting chance," Mr. Leahy said.

Former KGB officer Stanislav Levchenko, who was also interviewed on the program, agreed with the senator.

A former recruiter for the KGB in Japan, Mr. Levchenko said curbing the number of Soviet personnel in the United States "would be a great help in reducing the scale of Soviet espionage activities."

Mr. Levchenko said the KGB does "research work" before recruiting potential agents, "studying all possible targets in this country and other free world countries."

"The KGB continuously collects information on new possible targets through already existing agent networks all over the world," Mr. Levchenko said.

When a prospective spy is finally approached by the KGB with the idea of recruitment, his background, talents and problems are already known, Mr. Levchenko said.

In a related matter, Gen. Richard Stilwell said the Pentagon is proceeding with plans to cut in half the number of U.S. military and civilian personnel with access to classified information.

Gen. Stilwell, who directs a Pentagon Security Review Commission, called the security clearance issue "a large and complex problem" particularly in the era of high technology.

He said the Soviet Union is estimated to be "85 percent dependent" on U.S. technology for the development of its weapons systems.